UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1808
12 January 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council meets to consider draft resolution that would extend suspension of economic sanctions against Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for 100 days.

+ Secretary-General begins first official visit to Sweden; to meet with Prime Minister and attend luncheon hosted by King tomorrow.

+ Secretary-General expresses regret at Croatia's decision not to accept further renewal of UNPROFOR mandate beyond 31 March; cites risk of renewed hostilities should peace-keepers be withdrawn from country.

+ In address to Swedish Parliament, Secretary-General says international community must help strengthen Organization's ability to cultivate democracy.

+ United Nations agencies to evacuate international staff from Baidoa after killing of Somali UNICEF driver on Tuesday; ask international non-governmental organizations to take similar action in solidarity.

+ UNDP formally endorses German offer to host United Nations Volunteers programme; headquarters to move from Geneva to Bonn in mid-1996.

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The Security Council met today to consider a draft resolution that would extend its suspension of certain economic sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) for 100 days. Those sanctions were suspended by resolution 943 (1994) for an initial period of 100 days, provided that the border between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Bosnia and Herzegovina were closed.

The representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina told the Council that it would be a mistake to extend the suspension of sanctions. He said that none of the objectives of resolution 943 (1994) had been realized and that the "Belgrade regime" had "continued to fuel the fire it had started" in Bosnia

and Herzegovina. He went on to say that the current border monitoring methodology was defective, and charged that resolution 943 had made it possible for the Croatian and Bosnian Serbs to coordinate their attacks on Bihac.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today began his first official visit to Sweden, and was received at Stockholm airport by Prime Minister Ingmar Carlsson. He was the guest of honour at a luncheon hosted by the Speaker of the Swedish Parliament, Birgitta Dahl, and then addressed the Parliament.

The Secretary-General later met with representatives of 30 Swedish non-governmental organizations active in the fields of peace and development. They presented him with a list of projects which they are implementing to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. The Secretary-General praised the role of the non-governmental organizations in support of United Nations programmes and activities, particularly in the fields of education and information. Tomorrow, he will meet with the Prime Minister and attend a luncheon hosted by King Carl Gustaf XVI.

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The Secretary-General today said he very much regretted the Croatian Government's decision not to accept a further renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Croatia beyond 31 March. He expressed grave concern about the risk of renewed hostilities should United Nations peace-keepers be withdrawn from the country. He was informed of the decision in a letter from Croatian President Franjo Tudjman.

The United Nations had played a decisive role in halting the brutal war in Croatia three years ago, and UNPROFOR had helped prevent a resumption of the fighting since, the Secretary-General continued. "While I am painfully aware of the frustration of the Croatian people that a final political settlement has eluded us, I should like to recall that the unremitting efforts of the international community have resulted in visible progress, particularly in the opening of the Zagreb-Belgrade highway", he said.

The Secretary-General went on to say that the international community would continue its dialogue with the Croatian Government on the issues raised in President Tudjman's letter. Meanwhile, he urged all parties to exercise the utmost restraint as efforts to restore lasting peace to the Balkan region continued.

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The international community must help the United Nations to strengthen its ability to cultivate democracy, according to the Secretary-General. In his address to the Swedish Parliament in Stockholm today, he said the Organization was a crucial resource in the process of building the democratic

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system. Democracy was the system that could best support international peace and development.

Within States, democracy created the stability necessary for peace, by promoting respect for human rights, and providing conditions in which people could express their will, he continued. Internationally, it engaged all States in decision-making on world affairs. Democracy was essential to ensure the viability of the State as an institution of governance and as a mechanism for human progress. Democracy, within and among States, was key to peace and development.

The Secretary-General paid tribute to Sweden for its support for the United Nations in the pursuit of development, peace and democracy. Such support was essential if the "age of democracy" were to be made a reality for all, he concluded.

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United Nations agencies have decided to evacuate their international staff from Baidoa following the killing of a Somali United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) driver there on Tuesday, according to a spokesman for the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II). They have also asked international non-governmental organizations to take similar action as a sign of solidarity. The agencies had just returned to Baidoa a few weeks ago, having temporarily relocated their staff following UNOSOM II's withdrawal from the region.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Coordinating Team has scheduled a meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, tomorrow to consider the incident. Somali elders in Baodia told UNICEF that those responsible for the killing of the driver were known criminals and that they would eventually be apprehended.

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The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has formally endorsed Germany's offer to host the United Nations Volunteers programme. The headquarters of the Volunteers programme will move from Geneva to Bonn in mid-1996. The new premises are being provided rent-free and Germany will meet the cost of the move.

The Executive Director of the United Nations Volunteers, Brenda Gael McSweeney, welcomed the UNDP decision and praised Germany's commitment to the programme. "A manifestation of this commitment is that Germany will be doubling its financial support to the programme, from some 1.7 million deutsche marks to 3.4 million deutsche marks", she said.

The United Nations Volunteers programme, founded in 1970, has served 125 countries around the world. Some 4,000 Volunteers work each year in a variety of fields, including technical cooperation in the areas of health and agriculture.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1809
13 January 1995

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends MINURSO mandate to 31 May; approves expansion of Mission to expedite voter identification process in Western Sahara.

+ In second meeting today, Security Council extends UNOMIL mandate until 13 April; calls on Liberian parties to work together to implement Accra Agreement.

+ Secretary-General meets with Swedish Prime Minister in Stockholm; lays wreath at Dag Hammarskjold tomb in Uppsala.

+ Security Council extends suspension of certain economic sanctions against Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for 100 days; Russian Federation abstains from voting on resolution.

+ Security Council extends UNOMIG mandate until 15 May; voices concern at lack of progress towards political solution of Georgian/Abkhaz conflict.

+ United Nations agencies suspend non-emergency operations in Mogadishu to protest continued detention of French aid worker; UNOSOM II headquarters to be relocated to Mogadishu airport.

+ Secretary-General appoints Major-General Joseph Kinzer of United States as Force Commander of UNMIH.

+ Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women to hold fourteenth session at Headquarters from 16 January to 3 February.

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The Security Council today approved the expansion of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) to ensure the timely completion of the identification process for the referendum, and extended the

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For information media—not an official record

Mission's mandate to 31 May. It also decided to consider extending the mandate beyond that date in the light of progress towards the holding of the referendum and the implementation of the Settlement Plan for the Territory.

By unanimously adopting resolution 973 (1995), the Council asked the Secretary-General to report by 31 March to confirm the logistical, personnel and other arrangements required for the deployment of MINURSO at full strength. The expansion of the Mission will require an extra 105 civilian police monitors, 124 international and 35 local staff, as well as 12 observers from the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The Council said it expected to be able, on the basis of the Secretary-General's report and in accordance with the Settlement Plan, to confirm 1 June as the date for the start of the transitional period. The referendum would then take place in October.

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In a second meeting today, the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) until 13 April. It expressed deep concern at the failure of the Liberian parties to agree on the composition of the new Council of State, as stipulated in last month's Accra Agreement, and called on them to work together to implement the Agreement. The Council called on the parties, specifically, to uphold the cease-fire and to resume the disarmament and demobilization of combatants. It took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 972 (1995).

The Council demanded that the Liberian factions facilitate humanitarian deliveries and strictly respect the status of personnel belonging to UNOMIL, the Economic Community of West African States' Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), and humanitarian organizations. It reminded all Member States of their obligation to comply with the arms embargo imposed under resolution 788 (1992). The Council asked the Secretary-General to base any decision to return UNOMIL to its authorized strength on the existence of an effective cease-fire and on the Mission's ability to carry out its mandate.

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Continuing his official visit to Sweden, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today had a meeting with Prime Minister Ingmar Carlsson. They discussed the United Nations financial crisis, the increasing role of regional organizations and the situations in Nagorny Karabakh, the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. They also dealt with the World Summit on Social Development, to be held in Copenhagen in March.

At a joint press conference following the meeting, the Secretary-General expressed his gratitude for Sweden's outstanding support for the United Nations over the past 50 years. The Prime Minister pledged that his country would contribute constructively to the ongoing debate on the future of the Organization.

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Mr. and Mrs. Boutros-Ghali were the guests of honour at a luncheon hosted by King Carl Gustaf and Queen Silvia at the Royal Palace. The Secretary-General later departed for Uppsala, where he participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the tomb of former Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold.

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The Security Council yesterday extended its suspension of certain economic sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) for a further period of 100 days. Restrictions on air travel, maritime traffic, sporting events and cultural exchanges were suspended by resolution 943 (1994) for an initial 100 days, provided that the border between the Federal Republic and Bosnia and Herzegovina were closed.

By adopting resolution 970 (1995) by 14 votes in favour to none against, with 1 abstention (Russian Federation), the Council welcomed the measures taken by the Federal Republic to maintain the effective closure of the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina. It called on all States and others concerned to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and international borders of all States in the region.

The Council asked the Secretary-General to report every 30 days on the border closure and to immediately report any evidence that the Federal Republic was not effectively implementing it. Any report to that effect would terminate the suspension of sanctions unless the Council decided to the contrary.

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The Security Council has extended the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) until 15 May. It expressed deep concern at the lack of progress towards a comprehensive political solution of the Georgian/Abkhaz conflict, and at the slow pace of return of refugees and displaced persons. The Council urged the parties to refrain from any unilateral actions which could complicate or hinder the political process. It took that action yesterday, by unanimously adopting resolution 971 (1995).

The Council also urged the parties to intensify efforts to achieve an early and comprehensive political settlement, including on the political status of Abkhazia, fully respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia. Those efforts would be made under the auspices of the United Nations, with the assistance of the Russian Federation as facilitator, and with the participation of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

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United Nations agencies have suspended non-emergency operations in Mogadishu until further notice to protest the continued detention of Rudy Marq, an aid worker with the non-governmental organization AICF. Mr. Marq, a French national, was kidnapped in the Somali capital almost a month ago. International non-governmental organizations suspended their non-emergency operations after demands for his release yesterday were not met, according to a United Nations spokesman.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) will relocate its headquarters from the embassy compound to Mogadishu airport over the weekend.

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The Secretary-General has appointed Major-General Joseph Kinzer of the United States as Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH). Major-General Kinzer has been Deputy Commanding General of the United States Fifth Army in Texas since September 1994.

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The situation of women in Croatia will be among the issues discussed by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women when it holds its fourteenth session at Headquarters from 16 January to 3 February. The Committee will also examine the measures being taken by 13 States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to ensure equal participation of women in political, economic and cultural life.

The 23-member expert Committee is the monitoring body for the implementation of the 1979 Convention. States parties are required to submit an initial report within one year of accession to the Convention and periodic reports at least every four years. Reports should detail legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures adopted by States to give effect to the provisions of the Convention and progress achieved towards that end.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1810
16 January 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General begins official visit to Denmark; discusses upcoming World Summit for Social Development with Danish Prime Minister.

+ Secretary-General warns of destructive war in Croatia if UNPROFOR withdraws; says Croatian Government should reconsider decision not to accept renewal of Force's mandate.

+ Bosnian Government forces launch assault west of Bihac, prompting Serb artillery attack on town; UNPROFOR protests violation of cessation of hostilities agreement and shelling of civilians.

+ Special Representative Gbeho calls on United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations to pull staff out of Somalia when UNOSOM II withdraws to avoid kidnappings and attacks.

+ UNHCR begins humanitarian airlift for victims of Chechnya conflict; puts total of refugees and displaced persons at more than 400,000.

+ Preparatory Committee for World Summit for Social Development begins two-week session; to consider international declaration and programme of action for poverty elimination, job creation and social integration.

+ Workshop on reinforcing role of non-governmental organizations in African development begins at Headquarters.

+ IAEA Director-General welcomes Algeria's accession to Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today began his first official visit to Denmark, and met with the country's Prime Minister. They discussed the World Summit for Social Development and the work of the United Nations in the post-cold war era. The Summit, which will be held in Copenhagen in March, will be attended by 93 heads of State or Government. The Secretary-General noted that Denmark was the largest contributor to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and that it had 1,361 troops participating in five different peace-keeping operations.

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The Secretary-General later visited the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)/UNDP supply centre at Copenhagen free port, and met with United Nations staff at the World Health Organization (WHO) regional headquarters for Europe. Tomorrow, he will visit the Bella Centre -- the venue for the Social Summit -- and will meet with representatives of non-governmental organizations active in the field of social development. He will later leave Denmark to begin a three-day visit to Germany.

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Withdrawal of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) from Croatia would likely lead to the resumption of war there, according to the Secretary-General. In a report to the Security Council dated 14 January, he expressed hope that the Croatian Government would reconsider its decision not to accept a further renewal of the Force's mandate beyond 31 March. He warned that the next war in Croatia would be more destructive than the one which raged in 1991-1992, in view of the accumulation of weapons there.

The fundamental solution to the problem in Croatia could only be sought through political dialogue, the Secretary-General stressed. The parties themselves bore the primary responsibility for achieving such a solution, and must take the necessary steps towards reconciliation. The successful implementation of the Cease-fire Agreement of March 1994 and the conclusion of the Economic Agreement last month had enhanced the possibilities of progress. "UNPROFOR's task has been to keep the peace and thus facilitate the process of reconciliation", he said. "In other words, it is a means to an end, not an end in itself."

The Secretary-General went on to say that if the Croatian Government did not reconsider its position, he would undertake a detailed study of the practical consequences and financial implications of UNPROFOR's withdrawal. He would also examine whether the Force's headquarters and logistic base should be maintained in the capital of a country where there was no longer a mandate or a troop presence. He added that he would consult closely with members of the Security Council on the options available.

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Bosnian Government forces launched an attack in the western part of the Bihac pocket over the weekend, capturing and holding some territory, according to a United Nations spokesman. In response, Serb forces shelled Bihac on Saturday, killing five civilians, and fired mortars into the town on Sunday, killing another two. The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFR) protested to the Government side for launching the attack in violation of the current cessation of hostilities agreement, and to the Serb side for shelling civilians.

The spokesman said Croatian Serb forces had allowed some United Nations convoys to enter the Bihac pocket, bypassing the town of Velika Kladusa. Meanwhile in Sarajevo, hopes that the airport routes would be reopened over the weekend were not fulfilled. However, technical discussions were underway

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between Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serb representatives regarding who could use the routes when restrictions on movement were lifted.

* * *

Special Representative Victor Gbeho has called on all United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations to pull their international staff out of Somalia when the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) withdraws, in order to avoid kidnappings and attacks. A United Nations spokesman said Mr. Gbeho expected continued clashes after the Operation completed its withdrawal next month, but not a full-scale resumption of civil war.

The spokesman noted that UNOSOM II had moved its headquarters from the old United States Embassy compound to Mogadishu airport over the weekend. Meanwhile, there was some fighting among Somali factions, but reports of hostage taking were exaggerated, he added.

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has begun an airlift of 75 metric tons of humanitarian supplies for thousands of people displaced by the fighting in Chechnya. A UNHCR-chartered plane carried 42 tons of supplies to North Ossetia from Amsterdam yesterday, and then flew on to Turkey to pick up another cargo for delivery on Tuesday.

Nine UNHCR staff and a representative of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs arrived in the region last week to assess the needs of the estimated 150,000 people who have fled Chechnya. There are an estimated 260,000 displaced persons in the Republic itself. The UNHCR is working closely with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the north Caucasus, and is cooperating with the Russian Federal Migration Service and the Russian relief agency EMERCOM.

* * *

The Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development today began a two-week session at Headquarters. The Committee will consider an international declaration and programme of action to guide efforts to eliminate poverty, create jobs and promote social development and integration. The drafts will be submitted for adoption to the Summit, which will be held in Copenhagen in March.

The draft declaration, which was prepared by the Committee Chairman, outlines nine commitments to be made by the international community to ensure social progress. Governments would commit to enhancing social development so that all people might have the rights, resources and responsibilities to lead satisfying lives and to contribute to their families and communities. Social development would be recognized as "central to the needs and aspirations of people throughout the world and to the responsibilities of governments and all sectors of civil society".

The draft programme of action, which was submitted by the Secretariat, outlines measures to implement the declaration's principles. It recommends actions to create an environment favourable to social development, eradicate poverty, reduce unemployment and foster social integration. The programme promotes an "integrated approach" combining many different actions and international strategies for social development.

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Improving collaboration between non-governmental organizations, African governments and the United Nations is the main focus of a workshop which began today at Headquarters. The two-day workshop is also discussing legal frameworks for strengthened cooperation, and the feasibility of convening an international conference on non-governmental organizations and African development.

Participants in the workshop include senior representatives of African and non-African countries, non-governmental organizations, senior United Nations officials, and members of the Panel of High-Level Personalities on African Development. The Panel was appointed by the Secretary-General in 1992 to advise him on African development issues in general, and on implementation of the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s in particular. The workshop was organized by the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries -- which acts as the secretariat for the Panel -- in the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development.

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Algeria has become a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), by depositing its instrument of accession in Washington, London and Moscow, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). IAEA Director-General Hans Blix welcomed Algeria's accession, saying it would add impetus to efforts to declare the whole of Africa a nuclear weapon-free zone. The country's accession brings the current total of States parties to the NPT to 168.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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DH/1811
17 January 1995

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council expresses hope Croatia will re-examine decision not to accept renewal of UNPROFOR mandate; says Force's presence in Republic is vital to regional peace and security.

+ Secretary-General extends condolences to Government and people of Japan on death and destruction caused by earthquake yesterday; says United Nations will respond to any request for assistance.

+ Secretary-General has meetings with German Foreign Minister and Minister for Economic Coordination and Development in Bonn.

+ United Nations launches consolidated appeal for $710 million for Rwanda; UNDP to convene Conference seeking another $764 million on behalf of Rwandan Government.

+ Secretary-General appoints General Bernard Janvier of France to succeed General Bertrand de la Presle as Force Commander of UNPROFOR on 1 March.

+ WHO Executive Board begins ninety-fifth session in Geneva; Director-General envisages renewed health-for-all policy based on equity and solidarity.

+ Developed and developing countries must promote awareness of Convention to Combat Desertification, Algeria tells Negotiating Committee.

+ Chairman and Special Rapporteur present reports to Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

+ UNDP-supported Human Rights Commissioner named Russian Federation's Man of the Year for 1994.

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The Security Council today expressed the hope that discussions in the coming weeks would lead to a re-examination of Croatia's decision not to

For information media—not an official record

accept a renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) beyond 31 March. In a statement read out by its President, Emilio J. Cardenas (Argentina), the Council expressed particular concern about the wider implications of that decision for the peace process throughout the former Yugoslavia.

The Council said UNPROFOR's continued presence in Croatia was of vital importance for regional peace and security. The United Nations, in general, and UNPROFOR, in particular, had a positive role to play in implementing the peace-keeping plan for Croatia and bringing about a settlement which fully respected its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Council said it understood Croatia's concerns about the lack of implementation of major provisions of the plan, and would not accept the status quo becoming indefinite.

The Council went on to call on all parties and others concerned to avoid any action or statement which might increase tension. It urged the parties to accelerate implementation of the Economic Agreement of 2 December and encouraged the international community to provide adequate financial support. It called for intensified efforts to consolidate that achievement and bring about a political settlement in Croatia, and called on the parties to negotiate in earnest to that end.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed shock and sadness at the devastation and appalling loss of life caused by the earthquake which struck Japan yesterday. He extended his condolences and sympathy to the Japanese Government and people, and to the families of the victims. He stressed that the United Nations would respond to any request for assistance in dealing with the disaster.

General Assembly President Amara Essy (Côte d'Ivoire) also extended his sympathy to the people and Government of Japan. He asked Member States to provide whatever assistance might be requested by the Government.

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The Secretary-General arrived in Germany today, having concluded his official visit to Denmark. He had meetings in Bonn with Germany's Foreign Minister, Klaus Kinkel, and Minister for Economic Coordination and Development, Carl-Dieter Spranger.

Before leaving Copenhagen, Mr. Boutros-Ghali visited the Bella Centre -- the venue for the forthcoming World Summit for Social Development -- and met with the Secretary-General of the NGO Forum and representatives of non-governmental organizations. Some 10,000 ngos will be accredited to the Summit, and more than 1,000 related meetings and events have been scheduled.

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The United Nations today appealed for $710 million to support emergency relief and first-stage recovery efforts in Rwanda, and continued humanitarian assistance to Rwandan refugees in neighbouring countries. The consolidated inter-agency appeal was launched in Geneva by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Peter Hansen.

Tomorrow, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will convene a Round Table Conference seeking $764 million for the Rwandan Government's programme of national reconciliation, rehabilitation and socio-economic development. The two-day Conference will be attended by representatives of donor countries, international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and United Nations agencies.

Special Representative Shahryar Khan was in Geneva for the two fund-raising drives. He said that Rwanda's economy had been totally devastated by last year's civil strife, and that the country needed a complete programme of reconstruction and rehabilitation.

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The Secretary-General has decided to appoint General Bernard Janvier of France as Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) as of 1 March. General Janvier will succeed General Bertrand de Sauville de la Presle, who will complete his assignment and return to the service of his Government. The Secretary-General expressed his appreciation and admiration for General de la Presle's excellent performance and wise leadership as Force Commander.

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The Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO) has begun its ninety-fifth session in Geneva. The Executive Board will be discussing the reforms needed to bring the Organization into the twenty-first century. In his introduction to the 1996-1997 proposed programme budget, WHO Director-General Hiroshi Nakajima stated that the Board was expected to adopt a renewed health-for-all policy based on equity and solidarity.

The Executive Board consists of 31 persons technically qualified in the field of health, chosen by the World Health Assembly on the basis of equitable geographical distribution. It gives effect to the decisions and policies of the Health Assembly, advising it and generally facilitating its work.

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All countries have a responsibility to promote awareness about the new international instrument to combat desertification and drought, according to Algeria. The Algerian representative made that comment to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of a Convention to Combat Desertification, as it continued its sixth session yesterday.

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Bolivia said priority should be given to Africa in efforts to promote awareness of the Convention, but other regions should not be overlooked. Ghana told the Committee that the awareness creation efforts should stress how the solutions to desertification would be made available to local communities. France, speaking on behalf of the European Union, said the local community had a special role to play in the process of awareness building. While the secretariat should be a facilitator in disseminating information about the Convention, it should not take over the role of local communities.

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The Chairman of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Ivanka Corti, has called for the introduction of the right of petition, through a new optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. She said that measure would be the best contribution the Committee could make to the forthcoming Fourth World Conference on Women. Those comments were made yesterday, as the Committee discussed the Chairman's report on her intersessional activities during the biennium 1993-1994.

The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Radhika Coomaraswamy, also presented a report to the Committee. She said she had been mandated by the Commission on Human Rights to recommend ways of eliminating violence against women, and to work with other special rapporteurs in the human rights area, as well as to consult with the Committee. Twenty-nine countries had replied to requests for information on violence in the family, the community, and by the State, and for information on programmes related to violence against women. Many non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies had also responded.

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The Russian Federation's Commissioner for Human Rights, Sergei Kovalev, has been named "Man of the Year for 1994" in that country. He received the honour following a public opinion survey conducted throughout the Russian Federation.

Mr. Kovalev's Office receives support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). That support is part of a larger regional programme to strengthen democracy, governance and participation in central and eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1812
18 January 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council discusses Secretary-General's position paper on occasion of fiftieth anniversary of United Nations; extends sympathy to Government and people of Japan on loss of life and damage caused by Monday's earthquake.

+ Secretary-General has meetings with German Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defence in Bonn; discusses Germany's role in United Nations peace-keeping operations.

+ Special Representative Brahimi to take up residence in Haiti tomorrow; UNMIH Force Commander meets with United Nations personnel in Port-au-Prince.

+ Preparatory Committee for World Social Summit discusses draft declaration on poverty elimination, job creation and social development.

+ UNRWA and Saudi Fund for Development review use of $20 million contribution to Peace Implementation Programme for West Bank and Gaza.

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The Security Council met today to discuss the Secretary-General's position paper on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, a supplement to his 1992 report, "An Agenda for Peace". On behalf of the Council, President Emilio J. Cardenas extended deep sympathy to the Government and people of Japan in connection with Monday's earthquake. He expressed shock and sorrow at the great loss of life and material damage suffered.

The United Kingdom said it could wholeheartedly endorse many of the proposals in the Secretary-General's position paper. There should be greater coordination within the United Nations system to identify potential crises and a greater willingness to address them early, before they escalated into armed conflict. However, preventive action would not always be effective, and a large number of United Nations peace-keepers would continue to be needed. A clear line had to be drawn between peace-keeping and peace-enforcement.

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Peace-keeping was most likely to succeed when it was strictly impartial and based upon the consent of the parties.

Speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned countries, the representative of Indonesia noted that the Secretary-General's position paper was relatively silent on the General Assembly's role in contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security. He stressed that only sustained efforts to resolve underlying social, economic, cultural and humanitarian problems could achieve peace on a durable foundation. The United Nations must convey a new vision to the world, and fulfil its commitment to development.

China stressed that the Security Council must strictly abide by the Charter when engaged in preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping. Particular attention should be given to the principle of respect for State sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs. Disputes should be settled through such peaceful means as good offices, mediation and negotiation. Seeking rapid solutions through military actions or other enforcement measures was not only politically undesirable, but would sharpen contradictions and cause long-term damage. China supported a more active and effective role for the General Assembly in maintaining international peace and security and in related areas.

The United States representative said the United Nations must learn from the 21 peace-keeping operations established since 1988. Perhaps the most important lesson was that an operation inside a country faced greater demands than one separating hostile States. She stressed the need for rigorous decision-making in considering whether, and how, to initiate an operation. In the past year, the Council had asked tough questions about the cost, mandate, scope, risk and duration of proposed operations. The goal was to ensure that each operation had a clear and realistic objective, that peace-keepers were equipped properly and that money was not wasted. The new policy was working, and had resulted in fewer and smaller new operations, and better management of existing ones. She added that there should be a willingness to delay the start of an operation until the parties accepted, and observed for a trial period, military and political steps towards a negotiated settlement.

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Continuing his visit to Germany, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today met with the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Helmut Schaefer. They discussed ways to strengthen the United Nations in the fields of diplomacy and peace-keeping, assistance to the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, and disarmament issues, including the proliferation of anti-personnel mines. Mr. Schaefer sat in at that meeting for Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, who was ill.

The Secretary General later met with the German Defence Minister, Volker Rühe. Their discussion focused on United Nations peace-keeping operations, and Germany's role in them.

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Special Representative Lakhdar Brahimi will travel to Haiti tomorrow to take up residence there, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH), Major-General Joseph Kinzer, arrived in the country yesterday.

Major-General Kinzer had a series of meetings with United Nations personnel today, and was scheduled to meet with the Special Representative tomorrow, the spokesman continued. He would also meet with various Haitian officials, and visit Gonaives and Cap-Haitien, in the coming days.

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The Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development has been discussing a draft declaration which would express the political commitment of governments to eliminate poverty, create jobs and promote social development. At a working group meeting yesterday, the Committee focused on the section on "principles and goals", and on the first of nine commitments in the draft, on the establishment of an environment conducive to social development. The draft declaration and a draft programme of action to implement it will be submitted to the Summit, which will be held in Copenhagen in March.

During the discussion on principles and goals, speakers discussed whether past actions relating to social progress should be addressed in the declaration, or if its sole focus should be the vision for the future. The representative of Slovenia said that past mistakes of governments should be admitted, while pledges should be made to avoid creating obstacles to social development. The representative of Canada said the principles and goals for the present and future should not refer to the past. Committee Chairman Juan Somavia (Chile) said the declaration should reflect the fact that past realities had led to the convening of the Social Summit.

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The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) Commissioner-General, Ilter Türkmen, met with a delegation from the Saudi Fund for Development in Vienna on Monday. They reviewed the Agency's progress in implementing projects valued at $20 million in the West Bank and Gaza using Saudi assistance for the Palestinian people.

Project funds earmarked for Gaza include support for upgrading health services, constructing and providing equipment for UNRWA schools and shelter rehabilitation. In the West Bank, funds are being used to upgrade health centres and UNRWA schools, and to support health institutions in Jerusalem. Saudi Arabia's contribution of $20 million is the largest from a single donor for UNRWA's Peace Implementation Programme.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1813
19 January 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General and German Chancellor appeal to Croatia to reverse decision not to accept extension of UNPROFOR mandate; say withdrawal of Force would not be in interest of peace.

+ Germany says it will, in principle, participate in United Nations stand-by arrangements for peace-keeping; Secretary-General says even symbolic German commitment would be very valuable.

+ Security Council resumes discussion of Secretary-General's position paper on peace-keeping; Brazil says new agenda for development is essential for success of any agenda for peace.

+ Secretary-General says UNMIH will be able to take over from Multinational Force by 31 March; expresses confidences in Mission's ability to sustain secure and stable environment in Haiti.

+ Negotiating Committee on International Convention to Combat Desertification concludes sixth session.

+ Governing Council of United Nations Compensation Commission elects Italy as President, and Indonesia as Vice-President, for 1995-1996.

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On the third day of his visit to Germany, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today met with Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Secretary-General expressed deep appreciation for Germany's strong and steady support for the Organization. The Chancellor informed him that he would participate in the World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Copenhagen in March.

After their meeting, the Secretary-General and the Chancellor strongly appealed to Croatia to reverse its decision not to accept a further renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) beyond 31 March. They said the Force's withdrawal from the country would not be in the interests of peace, or Croatia, or the former Yugoslavia as a whole.

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For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General also met today in Bonn with Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, for a discussion which focused on peace-keeping operations. He stressed the importance of Germany's participation in those activities, even if on a small scale, as a symbolic expression of its commitment to peace-keeping. The Foreign Minister said that Germany would, in principle, participate in United Nations stand-by arrangements. However, in view of the re-organization of the German Army, details would have to be worked out later. He stressed that his country's participation in operations would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Also today, the Secretary-General delivered a lecture at a seminar for chief editors and high-level officials on Germany and international security. He spoke on "The role of the United Nations in maintaining peace and security: What to expect from Germany". The seminar was sponsored by the Federal College for Security Policy Studies.

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The Security Council today continued its discussion of the Secretary-General's recent position paper supplementing "An Agenda for Peace". The representative of Brazil told the Council that peace and security could not be dissociated from social end economic well-being. A new agenda for development was essential for the success of any agenda for peace. It was important to create a true partnership between the less and the more developed as a crucial step towards an equitable and peaceful international system. In peacemaking and peace-keeping, the consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence were essential to the success of United Nations endeavours.

Ireland's representative welcomed the development of a multi-faceted approach to peace-keeping. Where appropriate, a human rights dimension should be provided for in humanitarian and peace-keeping operations. The usefulness of preventive diplomacy had been demonstrated repeatedly. Too often, however, the offer of United Nations assistance was rejected or came too late. It was vital to ensure that all information on a potential crisis was expeditiously brought to the attention of the competent organs and that appropriate action was taken quickly. In Rwanda, for example, ample information on the deterioration of the situation was available in advance, but did not lead to timely preventive action.

Yesterday, speaking on behalf of the European Union, the representative of France said the prevention of conflict remained the best method of peace-keeping. Protection of human rights and measures to promote economic stability were aspects of preventive diplomacy. He supported regular financing of peacemaking missions, as well as preventive deployment of troops even in the absence of consent. He expressed concern about the issue of rapid deployment. The stockpiling of reserves left over from operations should be considered for the start-up of new ones. While the provision of stand-by arrangements did not guarantee the provision of forces, the stand-by system would work if enough Member States made commitments.

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Japan's representative stressed the importance of preventive diplomacy and peacemaking. A list of persons with the requisite skills and experience to serve as mediators or special envoys should be prepared. Where persons lacked sufficient experience, training should be provided. There was a need for small field missions to engage in preventive diplomacy and peacemaking efforts in a timely manner. Adherence to traditional peace-keeping principles was essential to the success of any operation. For an operation to be truly successful, it must be integrated into an overall political process from the beginning. He went on to say that sanctions were one of the few effective instruments that could be used to convey the will of the international community without resorting to the use of force. Japan was ready to consider the impact of sanctions as it formulated its aid policy, he added.

* * *

The United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) should be able to take over from the Multinational Force on or around 31 March, according to the Secretary-General. In a report to the Security Council dated 17 January, he said the security situation in Haiti had improved considerably since the Force's deployment, the end of the de facto régime and the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The constitutional Government exercised its authority throughout the country, and there was no serious danger to its existence. He recommended that the Council extend UNMIH for six months to 31 July.

The Secretary-General expressed confidence that the Mission would be able to fulfil its mandate satisfactorily and give all necessary assistance to the Haitian Government to sustain a secure and stable environment. However, conditions in Haiti would not be the same as those which were foreseen when the Council adopted resolutions 867 (1993) and 940 (1994). For example, the Haitian Armed Forces had collapsed in a matter of days, leaving the country without a security force. The Multinational Force had thus begun training an Interim Public Security Force as a stop-gap measure. While the tasks originally entrusted to UNMIH by the Council remained valid, its mandate might have to be adapted to the realities on the ground.

The Secretary-General went on to say that the security now enjoyed by the Haitian people remained very fragile. There were many factors that could lead to instability: the disaffection of former members of the Armed Forces, especially those who had been demobilized; the probable existence of paramilitary networks and the availability of arms; rising frustration at the inability of the justice system to address past human rights violations and current criminality; the delay in translating economic measures and development programmes into concrete improvements in the daily lives of the poor; and the additional tension that might be generated by upcoming elections.

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The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification concluded its sixth session after holding three plenary meetings yesterday. At its final meeting, the Committee asked its interim secretariat to make arrangements to promote public

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awareness of the Convention in order to ensure the successful observance of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. The General Assembly proclaimed the Day in 1994, to be observed annually on 17 June.

The Committee also established two working groups to carry out certain functions prior to the entry into force of the Convention. Working Group I will initiate measures to identify an organization to house the global mechanism for mobilizing and channelling financial resources. It will also be responsible for designating a permanent secretariat for the mechanism, and for making arrangements for its functioning. Working Group II will organize scientific and technological cooperation, particularly the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology. It will also be responsible for: the establishment of a roster of independent experts; the rules of procedures for the conference of Parties to the Convention; procedures on questions of implementation; and procedures for conciliation and arbitration.

* * *

The Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission, established by the Security Council to review claims resulting from Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait, has elected Italy as its President for 1995-1996, replacing Spain which held the presidency in 1993-1994. The Council also elected Indonesia as its Vice-President, replacing Brazil. The new President is the Permanent Representative of Italy in Geneva, Giuseppe Baldocci. The new Vice-President is Soemadi D.M. Brotodiningrat, the Permanent Representative of Indonesia in Geneva.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1814
20 January 1995

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council President expresses concern about situations in Bihac, Tuzla and Sarajevo demilitarized zones; endorses UNPROFOR efforts on ground.

+ Secretary-General has meetings with German President and Bundestag Foreign Affairs Committee; to meet in Geneva next week with senior United Nations officials on former Yugoslavia.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs to have meetings with Guatemalan Government and URNG with view to speeding up negotiating process.

+ United Nations and UNIFIL issue protests after Israeli forces fire on Nepalese peace-keepers in Lebanon.

+ NGOs say they will maintain programmes in Somalia after UNOSOM II withdrawal, but seek safety guarantees from Somali political leaders.

+ UNFPA Executive Director says Programme of Action adopted by 1994 Population Conference reinforces Convention on Discrimination against Women.

+ Preparatory Committee for upcoming Conference of States Parties to NPT to hold final session at Headquarters next week.

* * *

The President of the Security Council, Emilio Cardenas (Argentina), today expressed concern about the situations in the Bosnian enclaves of Bihac and Tuzla, and in the demilitarized zones around Sarajevo. In a statement to correspondents, he said the Council endorsed the efforts of United Nations personnel on the ground to resolve those situations. He added that the Council would be following up on the matter.

There was an upsurge of fighting around the town of Velika Kladusa in the Bihac pocket yesterday, according to a United Nations spokesman. Meanwhile,

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For information media—not an official record

there has been tension between the Bosnian parties in Tuzla, relating to efforts to reopen the airport there. The Bosnian Government side has objected to the stationing of a Bosnian Serb liaison officer at the UNPROFOR base in Tuzla.

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On the last day of his official visit to Germany, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today met with President Roman Herzog in Berlin. They discussed the benefits the world would gain from a strong German presence in the United Nations, and the challenges facing the Organization in the years ahead. He later had a meeting with the Mayor of Berlin.

The Secretary-General then left Berlin for Geneva, where he was scheduled to meet with the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Lansana Kouyaté. He announced today that he would convene a meeting in Geneva next week with the Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg, Special Representative Yasushi Akashi, the Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), General Bertrand de la Presle, and the Force Commander in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lieutenant-General Michael Rose.

Earlier in the day in Bonn, the Secretary-General met with the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Bundestag. They had a wide-ranging discussion on the role of Germany in the United Nations, and on the Organization's efforts in preventive diplomacy, peace-keeping and peacemaking.

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The Secretary-General has instructed the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Marrack Goulding, to travel to Guatemala City and Mexico City to meet with the Guatemalan Government and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG), respectively. He took that action after consultations with the Group of Friends of the Guatemalan peace process (Colombia, Mexico, Norway, Spain, United States and Venezuela).

Mr. Goulding, accompanied by the United Nations Moderator of the peace process, will put forward proposals for speeding up negotiations. He will also review progress made in the installation and operations of the United Nations Human Rights Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA).

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The Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) today issued a strong protest after Israeli forces fired three tank rounds for no apparent reason at a position occupied by Nepalese peace-keepers. Two rounds landed near a generator, while an anti-personnel round landed in the centre of the position. However, no peace-keepers were injured in the incident, which was also protested at United Nations Headquarters.

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Most international non-governmental organizations in Somalia have promised to maintain their programmes after the departure of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) in March. They gave assurances to that effect at a meeting in Mogadishu today with senior United Nations security official Benon Sevan.

However, the NGOs expressed serious concern about the security situation in Somalia. They stated that they wanted guarantees from Somali political leaders that the country's airports and seaports would remain safe and accessible to legitimate users.

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The Programme of Action adopted by the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development was based on principles which reinforced the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, according to Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). She made that comment yesterday, in an address to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Dr. Sadik, who was Secretary-General of the Population Conference, said the Programme of Action clearly recognized the need to empower women, to ensure gender equality and to place women's rights at the centre of population and development activities. It stated that eliminating violence against women and ensuring women's ability to control their own fertility were cornerstones of population and development programmes. The Programme supported the Convention in the area of health and family planning, and set forth quantitative goals which directly supported gender equality. She called on the expert members of the Committee to prevail upon their governments to give adequate attention to the needs of women.

* * *

The Preparatory Committee for the review and extension Conference of States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) will hold its final session at Headquarters next week. The Conference itself will be held from 17 April to 12 May, 25 years after the Treaty entered into force, to decide whether it should continue in force indefinitely, or be extended for a fixed period or periods. That decision will require a majority of States parties to the Treaty. As of 16 January, there were 169 States parties, Algeria and Ukraine being the most recent accessions.

The Committee will address all remaining procedural issues such as finalization of the draft rules of procedure and the agenda, and consider any final document which might be adopted by the Conference. As the Conference called for under the extension provision in the Treaty this year coincides with the quinquennial review of the Treaty's effectiveness and implementation of its obligations (article VIII), the Conference will address those aspects as well.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1815
23 January 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General condemns bomb attack in Israel in strongest possible terms; appeals to all sides to continue peace process.

+ Secretary-General meets with Russian Foreign Minister in Geneva; discusses Croatian decision on withdrawal of UNPROFOR, and offers United Nations assistance in Chechnya.

+ Security Council to maintain economic sanctions against Serb-controlled areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serbs sign agreement on reopening of Sarajevo Airport routes on 1 February.

+ Multinational Force members say secure and stable environment exists in Haiti; UNMIH should begin assuming full range of functions.

+ French aid worker released in Somalia after 37 days in captivity.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has condemned in the strongest possible terms the bomb attack which occurred near the Israeli town of Netanya, north of Tel Aviv, on Sunday. He expressed regret at the loss of life and injuries caused by that abhorrent act of terrorism.

The Secretary-General extended his condolences to the Government of Israel and the families and colleagues of those killed and wounded in the attack. He also expressed concern over the potential impact on the ongoing peace process, and urged all sides to continue to pursue peace.

Meanwhile, Israel's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Gad Yaacobi, said he expected the international community, the Organization and its Member States to cooperate in dealing with terrorism. He told correspondents at Headquarters that terrorist groups were trying to undermine the Middle East peace process, noting that 110 Israelis had been killed since the signing of the Declaration of Principles by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

For information media—not an official record

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Continuing his stay in Geneva, the Secretary-General met this morning, in the presence of Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information Samir Sanbar, with 14 Directors of United Nations Information Centres in Europe and Africa. Among his other appointments were meetings with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata; United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Jose Ayala Lasso; and his Special Envoy for Georgia, Edouard Brunner. Tomorrow, the Secretary-General will meet with his principal aides on the situation in the former Yugoslavia, focusing on Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

On Saturday, the Secretary-General met with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev. They discussed the situation in Croatia, including possible avenues to be pursued following that country's decision on the withdrawal of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). The Secretary-General stated that he and the Foreign Minister believed that that course of action would "be a disaster for the peace process in the former Yugoslavia".

The Secretary-General also discussed the situation in Chechnya with Foreign Minister Kozyrev, and offered United Nations assistance there. He cited the Organization's ability to help in the promotion of democracy and the delivery of humanitarian aid.

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The Security Council has said it will maintain the economic sanctions imposed on Serb-controlled areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina by resolution 942 (1994). In a statement to correspondents, President Emilio Cardenas (Argentina) said Council members were in agreement on the absence of the conditions required to modify or reconsider that resolution.

In resolution 942 (1994), the Council strongly condemned the Bosnian Serbs for refusing to accept the territorial settlement proposed by the Contact Group, and said the sanctions would be reconsidered if they did so. The sanctions apply to "all activities of an economic nature", but the Council permitted exceptions on humanitarian grounds.

The Council President went on to announce that the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Serbs had signed an agreement for the reopening of the Sarajevo Airport routes on 1 February. Meanwhile, the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) reported that the Bosnian Government had ended its blockade in Tuzla. The blockade had prevented the Force from supporting aid deliveries by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

* * *

A secure and stable environment now exists in Haiti and the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) should begin assuming the full range of its functions, according to the States members of the Multinational Force. In a letter to the Security Council dated 19 January, they said all of the goals

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set out in resolution 940 (1994), and more, had been accomplished. They also endorsed a report to that effect by the Commander of the Multinational Force.

In a related development, the Secretary-General has informed the Council that UNMIH's military component will be composed of contingents from the following Member States: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bangladesh, Barbados, Canada, Djibouti, France, Guatemala, Guyana, Hungary, India, Ireland, Jamacia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia and the United States. In a letter dated 19 January, he noted that he was awaiting replies from certain other States which had been informally approached regarding troop contributions.

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Somali gunmen have freed Rudy Marq, the French aid worker kidnapped in Mogadishu last month, according to a spokesman for the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II). Mr. Marq was flown to Nairobi after his release, having spent 37 days in captivity.

United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations in Somalia had suspended non-emergency operations earlier this month to pressure Somali leaders to secure Mr. Marq's release.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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DH/1816
24 January 1995

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council condemns Sunday's terrorist bombing in Israel; calls on all parties to continue Middle East peace process through dialogue, respect and tolerance.

+ Secretary-General, in Geneva, chairs working group of senior United Nations officials on former Yugoslavia; discussion focuses on situations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

+ Secretary-General establishes Voluntary Fund to support International Tribunal for Rwanda; urges States and organizations to contribute generously.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs has meetings with Government in Guatemala, Friends of Guatemalan peace process and MINUGUA; to meet with URNG and Mexican Foreign Minister in Mexico.

+ Preparatory Committee for World Summit for Social Development nears completion of work on draft declaration.

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The Security Council today strongly condemned the terrorist attack which took place in the Israeli town of Netanya on Sunday. In a statement to correspondents, Council President Emilio Cardenas (Argentina) said the attack had been launched with the clear purpose of undermining the Middle East peace process.

The Council extended its condolences to the families of those who had died in the incident, and wished a speedy recovery to those who had been wounded. It called on all parties to continue efforts to consolidate the peace process, expressing the belief that common ground could only be found through dialogue, respect and tolerance.

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For information media—not an official record

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today in Geneva with a working group of senior United Nations officials on the former Yugoslavia. Discussion focused on the situations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. Participating in the meeting were the Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Kofi Annan; the Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg; Special Representative Yasushi Akashi; the Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), Lieutenant-General Bertrand de Lapresle, and his successor, Lieutenant-General Bernard Janvier, who will take over on 1 March; and the UNPROFOR Force Commander in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, and his predecessor, Lieutenant-General Michael Rose.

The Secretary-General will leave Geneva tomorrow for Davos, where he will deliver the opening address at the World Economic Forum on Thursday. He will also formally receive the report "Our Global Neighbourhood", prepared by the Commission on Global Governance. The report will be presented by the Prime Minister of Sweden, Ingvar Carlsson, and the Co-Chairman of the Commission, Shridath Ramphal.

* * *

The Secretary-General today announced the creation of a Voluntary Fund to support the International Tribunal for Rwanda. He urged States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute generously to it, noting that some pledges had already been received. The Tribunal was established by Security Council resolution 955 (1994) to prosecute persons responsible for genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in Rwanda and neighbouring States last year.

Contributions to the Fund will enable the deployment of teams to Rwanda to investigate suspects in custody there, and the identification and apprehension of suspects in neighbouring States, according to the Secretary-General. Such an initiative is essential for the process of national reconciliation and for the restoration and maintenance of peace, both within Rwanda and in the refugee camps outside its borders.

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The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Marrack Goulding, was in Guatemala City yesterday and today, for meetings with the Guetamalan Government and the Group of Friends of the Guatemalan peace process (Colombia, Mexico, Norway, Spain, United States and Venezuela). He also met with officials of the United Nations Human Rights Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA).

Mr. Goulding's mission is to put forward proposals for speeding up negotiations between the Guatemalan parties. He will depart for Mexico City later today, for meetings with the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG), the Group of Friends and the Mexican Foreign Minister.

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Time is the only constraint in the finalization of texts for adoption by the World Summit for Social Development in March, according to Preparatory Committee Chairman Juan Somavia (Chile). As the Committee began the second week of its final session yesterday, Mr. Somavia reported on the progress of the two working groups which have been reviewing the draft declaration and draft programme of action for the Summit.

The first working group has been conducting a paragraph-by-paragraph review of the draft declaration and the final chapter of the draft programme of action, which addresses implementation and follow-up. The second working group has been focusing on the remaining chapters of the draft programme of action. Mr. Somavia said the first reading of the draft declaration and the final chapter of the draft programme had been completed and the group would strive to complete its work by Tuesday evening.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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DH/1817
25 January 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in Geneva, says UNPROFOR withdrawal from Croatia could affect peace-keeping presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Bosnia and Herzegovina remains generally quiet despite fighting in Bihac pocket; 21 UNHCR, ICRC and UNPROFOR flights land at Sarajevo.

+ Special Adviser Gharekhan briefs Security Council on Burundi; says situation remains fraglie, citing confrontations regarding position of Prime Minister.

+ Secretary-General recommends Security Council extend UNIFIL for six months; says Force contributes to stability in southern Lebanon, despite being prevented from implementing its mandate.

+ Documents affirming Iraqi recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity deposited in official United Nations archives.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met yesterday in Geneva with senior United Nations officials to consider military and political aspects of the situation in the former Yugoslavia. They discussed the possible consequences of a lifting of the arms embargo against the Bosnian parties, and of Croatia's decision not to accept a renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

Speaking at a press conference in Geneva today, the Secretary-General said a lifting of the arms embargo would lead to a withdrawal of French, British, Spanish and Russian peace-keeping contingents from UNPROFOR. He expressed concern that withdrawal of the Force from Croatia would affect the peace-keeping presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina. United Nations planning would now have to take into consideration the possibility of a withdrawal from both countries, and the impact on UNPROFOR's relationship with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

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For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General went on to say that UNPROFOR's withdrawal from Croatia might also affect the cease-fire and economic agreements concluded by the parties there. The economic agreement signed on 2 December had already brought significant benefits to the Croatian Government and Croatian Serbs, he pointed out.

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There was an outbreak of fighting this morning around the town of Velika Kladusa in the Bihac pocket, a United Nations spokesman said today. The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) reported 217 detonations and hundreds of small-arms rounds fired in one area. There were also some detonations around Bihac town itself.

However, the situation remained quiet elsewhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina. There were no cease-fire violations in Sarajevo, and a total of 21 flights -- operated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and UNPROFOR -- landed there today. Sectors South-West and North-East were calm and stable, although the Bosnian Government imposed some restrictions on UNPROFOR freedom of movement in the latter.

* * *

Special Adviser to the Secretary-General Chinmaya Gharekhan today briefed the Security Council on developments in Burundi, according to a United Nations spokesman. He said that the situation there remained fragile, and that it was chacterized by confrontations regarding the position of the Prime Minister.

The spokesman noted that the briefing on Burundi was given at the request of the Council. He added that the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, had called attention to the very serious political and security situation in the country.

The Council last month expressed concern regarding violence in Burundi, saying it threatened to further destabilize the country and could endanger the stability of the sub-region. In a statement by its President on 22 December, the Council urged all sides to reject confrontational tactics, violence and extremism, and to work towards compromise and conciliation in a spirit of national unity.

* * *

The mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) should be extended for six months to 31 July, as requested by the Lebanese Government, according to the Secretary-General. In a report to the Security Council dated 23 January, he said the Force contributed to stability in southern Lebanon and to the protection of the area's inhabitants.

The situation in southern Lebanon remained tense and volatile, and UNIFIL continued to be prevented from implementing its mandate, the Secretary-General

(more)

noted. Israel still occupied territory there, and its forces and their Lebanese auxiliaries continued to attack, and to be attacked by, armed groups opposed to the occupation. UNIFIL sought to limit the conflict and to protect civilians, and continued to patrol its area of deployment and to extend humanitarian assistance to those in need.

The Secretary-General called attention to the serious shortfall in funding for UNIFIL. At present, unpaid assessments exceeded $200 million. He appealed to all Member States to pay their assessments promptly, and to clear all arrears.

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The Secretary-General has deposited in the official archives of the United Nations documents affirming Iraq's recognition of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Kuwait as endorsed by the provisions of Security Council resolution 833 (1993). The documents were transmitted to him by a letter from Iraq dated 12 November 1994.

The documents include: a letter, dated 12 November 1994, to the Secretary-General from the Iraqi Foreign Minister; a Declaration, dated 10 November 1994, issued by the National Assembly of Iraq; decree No. 200, dated 10 November 1994, of the Revolution Command Council of Iraq; and a copy of the official gazette of the Republic of Iraq, Alwaqai Aliraqiya, dated 10 November 1994.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1818
26 January 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ United Nations must promote democracy within and among States, and in emerging global society, Secretary-General tells World Economic Forum; democracy can and should be assimilated by all cultures.

+ Security Council and General Assembly concurrently elect Vladlen Stepanovich Vereshchetin of Russian Federation to International Court of Justice.

+ James Grant resigns as UNICEF Executive Director for health reasons; Secretary-General expresses gratitude for 15 years of service to world's children.

+ Co-Chairmen of International Conference on Former Yugoslavia welcome reopening of Croatia pipeline as important achievement in search for negotiated solutions.

+ UNPROFOR lodges protest after Bosnian Serb forces shell Bihac safe area for first time in ten days.

+ New York State Bar Association presents United Nations with annual award for distinction in international law and affairs.

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The global mission of democratization can only be accomplished by acting at all the levels at which power is wielded in international society, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. Addressing the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, today, he said the United Nations must act to promote democracy not only within States and among States, but also within the emerging global society.

For some years, the United Nations had been waging a diplomatic effort on behalf of democracy within States, he noted. That diplomacy was most immediately apparent in peace-keeping operations, which envisaged both the restoration of democracy and the protection of human rights. A new generation of peace-keeping forces was now at work, and one of its foundations was the

imperative of democracy. The Organization must be able to assist States to adapt institutions, educate citizens, train leaders and draft legislation that respected human rights. It must help to create independent judicial systems, establish armed forces respectful of the rule of law, train police forces to safeguard public freedoms and set up human rights education systems.

In promoting democratization, he continued, the United Nations was not trying to persuade States to imitate others, or to borrow extraneous political forms, or to democratize simply to please certain Western States. "No one has a monopoly on democracy," he stressed. "Democracy can and should be assimilated by all cultures." It might take many forms, depending on the characteristics and circumstances of peoples. Democracy was not a model to be copied from certain States, but a goal to be attained by all peoples.

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The Security Council and the General Assembly, meeting concurrently, today elected Vladlen Stepanovich Vereshchetin (Russian Federation) to the International Court of Justice, for a term expiring on 5 February 1997. He will fill the seat left vacant by the death of Judge Nikolai Kostantinovitch Tarassov (Russian Federation) on 28 September 1994.

Elections to the Court require an absolute majority of votes in both the Council and the Assembly. Mr. Vereshchetin, the only candidate for the seat, was elected unanimously by the Council, and obtained 128 votes in the Assembly.

Mr. Vereshchetin has been a Deputy Director and Head of the International Law Department of the Institute of State and Law of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, since 1981; Chairman of the United Nations International Law Commission since 1994; and member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague since 1984. He was nominated by the national groups of Austria, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States.

* * *

James Grant has submitted his resignation as Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for health reasons, a spokesman for the Organization announced today. In accepting the resignation, the Secretary-General expressed his gratitude for Mr. Grant's 15 years of service to the Fund and the world's children, describing him as the epitome of the international civil servant.

Deputy Executive Director Richard Jolly will serve as acting Executive Director of UNICEF, pending the appointment of a successor to Mr. Grant, the spokesman noted.

* * *

The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, today welcomed the reopening of the oil

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pipeline which crosses Croatia. They described it as another important step in the implementation of the Economic Agreement signed by the Croatian Government and the Croatian Serbs on 2 December, and in the search for further negotiated solutions.

Meanwhile, work has been continuing on electricity and water projects, and the reopening of rail links in Croatia. Some 1,500 vehicles yesterday used the Zagreb-Belgrade international highway, which was reopened following the 2 December Agreement.

* * *

Bosnian Serb forces this morning fired six shells into the Bihac safe area, injuring one civilian, according to a United Nations spokesman. It was the first time the town had been shelled in ten days. The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) lodged a protest after the incident.

The Bosnian Serbs also fired seven shells into an area north of Bihac where Bangladeshi peace-keepers are stationed, the spokesman said. Meanwhile, fighting continued around the town of Velika Kladusa.

* * *

The International Law and Practice Section of the New York State Bar Association has presented its annual award for distinction in international law and affairs to the United Nations. The award is normally presented to a distinguished personality. However, the Section decided to present the award to the United Nations on its fiftieth anniversary "in recognition and commendation of its forceful and unceasing pursuit of world peace and development over a period of half a century".

The award was received on behalf of the United Nations and on behalf of the Secretary-General by the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, Legal Counsel Hans Corell.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1819
27 January 1995

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General meets with Foreign Ministers of Israel and Egypt in Zurich; concludes three-week visit to Europe.

+ Secretary-General expresses solidarity with people of Sarajevo; reiterates commitment to alleviation of suffering and peaceful settlement of 1,000-day old conflict.

+ UNHCR and Government of Zaire discuss arrangements to enhance security in Rwandese refugee camps; Secretary-General says peace-keeping operation is not feasible.

+ Special Envoy for Georgia to convene negotiations towards comprehensive settlement of Georgian/Abkhaz conflict in Geneva on 7 February.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs meets with URNG leaders in Mexico City; to meet with both Guatemalan parties in New York next week.

+ New UNPROFOR Force Commander in Bosnia and Herzegovina meets with parties in Sarajevo and Pale; seeks release of Bosnian journalist seized by Serb police in Sarajevo.

+ Senior prosecutors appointed to International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today concluded a three-week stay in Europe and departed for New York, according to a United Nations spokesman. Before leaving Zurich airport, he met with the Foreign Minister of Israel, Shimon Peres, and discussed the Middle East peace process. They were then joined for further talks by Foreign Minister Amre Moussa of Egypt.

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For information media—not an official record

Over the last three weeks, the Secretary-General paid official visits to Finland, Denmark, Sweden and Germany. He also had numerous meetings in Geneva, and addressed the World Economic Forum in Davos.

* * *

The Secretary-General has expressed his solidarity with and sympathy for the people of Sarajevo, on the one thousandth day since the Bosnian capital was engulfed by war. In a statement issued today, he noted that he had witnessed the suffering and the courage of Sarajevo's people at first hand. He reiterated his commitment to the continuing effort to alleviate their plight and to settle the conflict peacefully.

Through the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and other agencies, United Nations humanitarian assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina had saved thousands of lives, he noted. In the course of their service, 70 men and women of UNPROFOR had given their lives. The United Nations Special Coordinator's Office for the Restoration of Essential Services was now working with Sarajevans to help rebuild their shattered city and restore some normalcy to their lives.

Since the December 1994 cessation of hostilities agreement, there had been a dramatic reduction in the level of violence in Sarajevo, the Secretary-General continued. Only this week, the parties had agreed to open the Sarajevo airport routes, and had released nearly 100 prisoners. Those positive developments had created an opportunity which the international community and the parties must seize and build upon.

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The establishment of a peace-keeping operation to enhance security in Rwandese refugee camps in Zaire is not feasible at present, according to the Secretary-General. In a report to the Security Council dated 25 January, he said the operation under consideration since last November would have required more than the 3,000 to 5,000 troops originally estimated. However, after consultations with some 60 potential troop contributors, only one country had formally offered a unit. Only four countries had expressed an interest in providing civilian police for a more modest deployment.

Peace-keeping was essentially an instrument for conflict management and resolution, he continued. It had not been designed or used to ensure security in refugee camps. Nevertheless, the innocent civilians who had fled Rwanda were now exposed to intimidation and violence in the camps, and deserved the continued attention and assistance of the international community. Better security was also needed to create conditions for the voluntary repatriation of refugees.

The Secretary-General went on to say that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Government of Zaire were working on arrangements to enhance security in the camps. Acting under its refugee

protection and humanitarian assistance mandate, UNHCR had dispatched a Special Envoy to Kinshasa for that purpose.

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Following consultations with the Georgian and Abkhaz sides, Special Envoy Edouard Brunner will convene a further round of negotiations towards a comprehensive settlement of the Georgian/Abkhaz conflict in Geneva from 7 to 9 February. The negotiations will address the questions of the political status of Abkhazia and the return of refugees and displaced persons.

As on previous occasions, the negotiations will be attended by representatives of the Russian Federation, in the role of facilitator, and of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

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The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Marrack Goulding, has had meetings in Mexico City with the leaders of the Unidad Revolucionaría Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG), officials of the Mexican Foreign Ministry, and representatives of the Group of Friends of the Guatemalan peace process (Colombia, Mexico, Norway, Spain, United States and Venezuela). He met with officials of the Guatemalan Government in Guatemala City earlier in the week.

Mr. Goulding discussed with the URNG proposals put forward by the United Nations to revitalize the peace process and to facilitate the timely signing of a firm and lasting peace accord. It was expected that he would meet with the parties in New York in the coming week to develop those proposals further.

* * *

The new Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, met yesterday with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic in Sarajevo. He met today with Bosnian Serb leaders in Pale, and attempted to secure the release of a Bosnian journalist seized yesterday in Sarajevo.

The journalist was taken from an UNPFOROR armoured personnel carrier by Bosnian Serb police at a checkpoint in the city. A French UNPROFOR officer succeeded in preventing the seizure of three international journalists travelling in the same vehicle. The United Nations immediately began negotiations to secure the release of the Bosnian journalist.

* * *

The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, Justice Richard Goldstone, today announced the appointment of two senior prosecutors, Eric Ostberg of Sweden and Minna Schrag of the United States. Together with Grant Niemann of Australia, they will form the Prosecution Section, and will present evidence and argue legal points before the Tribunal.

Justice Goldstone noted that the Tribunal now had a full complement of senior trial lawyers to present and argue cases against those responsible for serious war crimes.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1820
30 January 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends UNIFIL mandate for six months until 31 July 1995.

+ UNICEF announces death of former Executive Director James P. Grant, on Saturday; Secretary-General expresses great distress and personal grief at death of Mr. Grant.

+ Mozambique calls for continued international support during current period of country's national reconstruction and development.

+ Secretary-General expresses grave concern at current tension between Ecuador and Peru; is following developments with close attention.

+ Both sides in dispute in Tajikistan inform Secretary-General of extension of agreement on temporary ceasefire.

+ Preparatory Committee for World Summit for Social Development approves provisional agenda and organization of work for Summit, to be held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March.

+ Secretary-General to officially launch Organization's fiftieth anniversary commemoration at ceremony at Headquarters on 1 February.

* * *

The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for a period of six months until 31 July 1995. It took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 974 (1995). By the resolution, the Council also reiterated its strong support for Lebanon's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognized borders. It called on all parties concerned to cooperate fully with the Force for the full implementation of its mandate.

Earlier, in a report to the Council, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had recommended the extension of UNIFIL's mandate. In his report, the Secretary-General also appealed to Member States to pay up their

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assessments promptly to help solve the shortfall in UNIFIL funding. The Force is owed some $203.5 million in assessments, representing money owed to States contributing troops to it.

UNIFIL was set up in March 1978 with the mandate of confirming the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon, restoring international peace and security and assisting the Government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area.

* * *

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) announced on Saturday, 28 January, the death of its former Executive Director, James P. Grant. He was 72 years old. Mr. Grant assumed office as the third Executive Director of UNICEF in January 1980. He resigned on 23 January this year because of his ill health.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed great distress and personal grief at the death of Mr. Grant. In a statement issued on his behalf, a UN Spokesman said the Secretary-General extended his heartfelt condolences to Mr. Grant's widow and to the other members of his family.

During his 15-year tenure as head of UNICEF, Mr. Grant was acclaimed for his tireless advocacy and his unflagging commitment, vision and dedication to improving the lives of the world's least advantaged -- the children of the developing world. Under his leadership, UNICEF confronted and decried what Mr. Grant called "the silent emergency", the daily tragedy of millions of children caught in the relentless downward spiral of poverty, population and environmental degradation. During Mr,. Grant's term, UNICEF also responded to the "loud" emergencies, and worked to save the lives of women and children caught in disasters such as earthquakes, famine and war.

* * *

The Foreign Minister of Mozambique has called for continued international support for his country during the current period of national reconstruction and development. Addressing the Security Council on Friday, Leonardo Santos Simaro said his country would continue to need international assistance in addressing vital issues, despite the successful completion of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ), whose complete withdrawal is scheduled for 31 January.

Those issues, he said included the reintegration into civilian society of demobilized soldiers, returnees and displaced persons, as well as in poverty eradication. Citing the holding of Mozambique's first democratic multiparty elections in October 1994 under United Nations auspices, the Foreign Minister commended the international community, the Secretary-General, the members of the Council and others for their contributions to the success of his country's peace process which began with the signing of the General Peace Agreement in Rome on 4 October 1992.

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Other speakers at the meeting applauded the success of the operation in Mozambique and stressed the need for the international community to provide continued support in order to uphold and consolidate the political gains of the past two years. They also called for a thorough review and analysis of the Mozambique operation in order to extract lessons which would be valuable for the conduct of similar operations in the future.

* * *

The Secretary-General has expressed his grave concern at the current tension between Ecuador and Peru. In a statement issued on Saturday, a UN Spokesman said the Secretary-General was following developments with close attention and was in touch with the Permanent Representatives of the two countries in New York. He applauded the prompt efforts of the four countries which are guarantors of the 1942 Protocol between Ecuador and Peru - Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States - and those of the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States. The spokesman said Mr. Boutros-Ghali stood ready to provide any support which may be appropriate to the two countries and to those helping them to resolve this long-standing problem.

Meanwhile, both Ecuador and Peru have accused each other of aggression. In a letter to the President of the Security Council, Ecuador said it has been urging Peru, through diplomatic channels, to halt its acts of provocation. However, the letter said, Peru has launched military operations against Ecuadorian army positions located in Ecuadorian territory. And Peru, in its letter to the Council said it has been the victim of armed aggression by Ecuadorian troops who committed an incursion into Peruvian territory. The Peruvian letter said that despite its official statements to resolve the matter through dialogue, a Peruvian guardpost was bombed by a helicopter of the Ecuadorian Armed Forces on Thursday.

* * *

Both sides in the dispute in Tajikistan have informed the Secretary-General that they are extending the agreement on a temporary ceasefire, according to a UN spokesman. President E. Rakhmonov of the Republic of Tajikistan, in his letter of 25 January to the Secretary-General, said his Government had decided to extend unconditionally the Agreement on a Temporary Cease-fire and the Cessation of Other Hostile Acts inside the Country and on the Tajik-Afghan border of 17 September 1994. He said the Agreement was of crucial importance for the restoration of peace and tranquillity in the country. He also stressed that his Government is prepared to do everything possible to continue the inter-Tajik negotiations.

Meanwhile, A. Turajonzodah, head of the Tajik opposition delegation and First Deputy Chairman of the Islamic Revival Movement of Tajikistan, has also sent a letter to the Secretary-General on 27 January. He emphasized the need to resolve the conflict through political means on the negotiating table. In this regard, on behalf of the leadership of the opposition, he announced the decision to extend the Agreement on 17 September 1994 for one month until 6

March 1995, in connection with the holy month of Ramadan. He pointed out that the extension of the Agreement would provide a chance to continue the inter-Tajik dialogue and to reach substantive progress in resolving fundamental political problems on the agenda of the inter-Tajik talks. In view of the constructive and stabilizing role which the United Nations Mission of Observers plays in Tajikistan, he requested the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of recommending to the Security Council the extension of its mandate.

* * *

The Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development has approved the provisional agenda and organization of work for the Summit, to be held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March. Based on the provisional programme of work, representatives of governments and organizations would meet from 6 to 10 March to exchange views, with 11 to 12 March dedicated to the Summit itself, with the participation of Heads of State or Government. An evening meeting would be held on 12 March for the adoption of the Summit's declaration and programme of action to guide national and international efforts towards social progress. A main committee would be established to complete the drafting of the documents to be adopted.

During the exchange of views, daily themes would focus on an enabling environment for social development; the eradication of poverty; productive employment and the reduction of unemployment; and social integration, as well as implementation and follow-up. On International Women's Day, 8 March, statements would focus on enhancing the participation of women in social progress and development.

The Committee recommended that Summit statements be limited to seven minutes. It also called upon all States, public and private organizations and individuals to contribute to the trust fund established to facilitate the fullest participation of the least developed countries in the Summit .

The Committee also agreed that the number of Vice-Presidents to be elected to the Summit would be 27 - seven from African States; six from Asian States; five from Latin American and Caribbean States; three from Eastern European States; and six from Western European and Other States.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will officially launch the Organization's fiftieth anniversary commemoration at a ceremony at Headquarters on 1 February. To mark the beginning of the world-wide programme of events, the Secretary-General will inaugurate a year-long exhibit of the original Charter document in the General Assembly Lobby, .

Ambassador Madeleine K. Albright of the United States and Trudy H. Peterson, Acting Archivist of the United States National Archives, will present the original Charter to the Secretary-General. New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Ambassador Legwaila Joseph Legwaila of Botswana who will

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serve as President of the Security Council for February, and Ambassador Richard Butler of Australia, Chairman of the Fiftieth Anniversary Preparatory Committee, are expected to be present. The Secretary-General and five of the first staff members of the United Nations will then present copies of the Charter to six children from different continents.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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DH/1821
31 January 1995

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends UNMIH mandate to 31 July; authorizes Secretary-General to take steps for full transfer of responsibility from multinational force to Mission by 31 March.

+ Croatian Serb leadership rejects peace plan put forward by United States, Russian Federation, European Union and United Nations.

+ UNPROFOR reports small flare-up of military activity in Srebrenica; fighting continues in Bihac pocket.

+ United Nations launches inter-agency appeal for $101 million for humanitarian operations in Sudan.

+ UNHCR sends humanitarian assistance and additional personnel to Guinea after influx of refugees from Sierra Leone.

+ Preparatory Committee for 1995 NPT Conference concludes final session.

+ Committee on Rights of Child adopts observations on Philippines, Colombia, Poland, Jamaica, Denmark and United Kingdom.

* * *

The Security Council last night extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) until 31 July and authorized the Secretary-General to prepare for the full transfer of responsibility from the multinational force to UNMIH by 31 March. It determined that a secure and stable environment now existed in Haiti for the deployment of UNMIH, thus meeting a condition for the termination of the multinational force's mission. The Council authorized the Secretary-General to deploy up to 6,000 troops and up to 900 civilian police officers in the country. It took that action by adopting resolution 975 (1995), by 14 votes in favour to none against, with 1 abstention (China).

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For information media—not an official record

The Council urged the Government of Haiti, with the assistance of UNMIH and the international community, to quickly establish an effective national police force and to improve the functioning of the justice system. It asked the Secretary-General to establish a fund to support the international police monitoring programme and assist with the creation of an adequate police force in Haiti. The Council also asked him to apprise it of the modalities of the transition from the multinational force to UNMIH at an early date, and to report on the Mission's deployment by 15 April.

Addressing the Council before the vote, the representative of China said his country would abstain since amendments it had offered had not been included in the final draft. China had suggested that the Council should reconsider UNMIH's mandate and size following its full deployment. After the adoption of the resolution, the representative of the United States said the international community had entered the second phase of its efforts to restore democracy to Haiti with the planned transfer from the multinational force to UNMIH. Although a sense of security now existed in Haiti, criminal forces might see the transition and the upcoming elections as an opportunity for bolder action. She warned that if UNMIH were pushed, it had the mandate, the firepower and the will to push back.

* * *

The Croatian Serb leadership in Knin has rejected a peace plan put forward by the United States, the Russian Federation, the European Union and the United Nations, a spokesman for the United Nations announced today. The Croat Serbs refused even to accept a copy of the plan, unless they also received a written guarantee from the Security Council that the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) would remain in the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) after 31 March.

"This is clearly a setback for the peace efforts", the spokesman said. "We would have wished that this plan be considered at the very least as a basis for negotiations." However, he noted that implementation of the Economic Agreement signed by the Croatian parties in December was proceeding at a steady pace.

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There was a small flare-up of military activity in the Srebrenica enclave in Bosnia and Herzegovina yesterday, according to a United Nations spokesman. He noted that there had been a small but steady build-up of Bosnian Serb forces on the western side of the enclave over the past 15 days. The Bosnian Government had also reinforced its positions nearby. Dutch peace-keepers today attempted to reduce the tension between the two sides.

There was also intense fighting yesterday in the Bihac pocket, with Fikret Abdic's forces and the Croatian Serbs on one side, and the Bosnian Government's Fifth Army Corps on the other, the spokesman continued. He expressed concern that mild weather was facilitating military activity in the region.

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Meanwhile in Sarajevo, UNPROFOR civil affairs officers today chaired a meeting between Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serb representatives to finalize procedures for the reopening of the airport routes tomorrow.

* * *

The United Nations has launched a consolidated inter-agency appeal for $101 million for the Sudan. The appeal updates emergency humanitarian assistance needs for war-affected and displaced populations for 1995. It reflects the requirements of United Nations agencies and programmes for projects in six priority areas. Those areas include emergency food aid for an estimated 1.2 million people in southern Sudan, and nutrition, health and water services for a total of 4.25 million people in various parts of the country.

The appeal aims to build on improved conditions for humanitarian access achieved in the Sudan over the last two years, and to enhance household food security and health. Programme proposals are based on the results of major assessments conducted around the country last year.

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Some 24,000 people have fled from Sierra Leone to Guinea since rebels swept into the town of Kambia one week ago, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The agency is sending humanitarian relief supplies to the region, and is preparing a new budget for emergency assistance for the refugees. It is also reinforcing its staff in Guinea with a three-person team.

Since civil war broke out in Sierra Leone in 1991, Guinea has played host to some 190,000 refugees. There are another 120,000 Sierra Leonean refugees in Liberia.

* * *

The Preparatory Committee for the 1995 Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) has concluded its fourth and final session at Headquarters. The session was devoted to the finalization of the organizational and procedural aspects of the Conference, which will take place in New York from 17 April to 12 May. The Conference is part of the quinquennial review of the Treaty's operation and is also to take a decision on the extension of the Treaty for an indefinite or fixed period.

The Committee reached agreement on the provisional agenda, under which the Conference will review the operation of the NPT and discuss the role of the Treaty in promoting non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and in strengthening international peace and security. The Conference also will discuss measures for promoting wider acceptance of the Treaty, and take a decision on its extension.

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A total of 142 States parties attended the session. In addition, in accordance with the Committee's decision, States not parties to the Treaty, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations were present as observers.

* * *

The Committee on the Rights of the Child last week concluded its eighth session after adopting observations on implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the Philippines, Colombia, Poland, Jamaica, Denmark and the United Kingdom. The Committee identified many positive steps taken to improve the situation of children, but also found areas for improvement.

In the Philippines, the Committee declared, a more active approach should be taken to eliminate discrimination against certain groups of children, including "cultural" communities, disabled children and children born out of wedlock. It said the Colombian police and military needed a new approach to enhance respect for all children, regardless of their social or economic background. The Committee also recommended that the United Kingdom take legislative measures to prohibit the use of corporal punishment in private schools, and consider raising the age of criminal responsibility.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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Prepared by Central News

DH/1822
1 February 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali launches United Nations' fiftieth anniversary observances with opening of year-long exhibit of original United Nations Charter document.

+ Security Council deplores calls for overthrow of Government in Burundi; condemns extremist Groups undermining national reconciliation process.

+ UNICEF Executive Board begins first session for 1995; pays tribute to former Executive Director James P. Grant.

+ Effective human rights safeguards require political will, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights tells Human Rights Commission as it begins fifty-first session in Geneva.

+ Four-month cessation of hostilities agreement in Bosnia-Herzegovina enters second month; agreement appears to be holding well.

+ Consultations underway in Afghanistan to constitute a mechanism for transfer of power in the country.

+ IFAD and Eritrea sign agreements to help finance lowlands development project - Fund's first operation in that country.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today launched the United Nations' fiftieth anniversary observances with the opening of a year-long exhibit of the original United Nations Charter document. This is the first time that the Charter is on display at the United Nations Headquarters. It is permanently stored in the United States Archives.

Describing the Charter as an extraordinary expression of humanity's shared values and aspirations, the Secretary-General noted that these values had not changed. The Charter is as relevant today as it was in 1945. Within the framework of the Charter, the United Nations invented peace-keeping;

For information media—not an official record

played a pivotal role in decolonization and in promoting self-determination; strengthened international law and helped enact comprehensive agreements on human rights. Mr. Boutros-Ghali said the United Nations has been a voice of the poor and the disadvantaged. It has provided substantial resources, technical assistance and policy advice; it is leading the way to a new integrated view of development, which extends beyond matters of economic growth to include political, social, environmental and democratic dimensions.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ambassador Madeleine Albright of the United States said the power of the Charter can be found not only in its eloquence, but in its origins. She said the United Nations has made great accomplishments in its first fifty years, adding that the anniversary celebrations accord an opportunity to commemorate these acheivements. She portrayed the United Nations as a living institution which has meant the difference between death and life for millions of children saved from disease, refugees from starvation, and civilians from the ravages of war.

Among others attending today's ceremony was New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

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The Security Council yesterday evening deeply deplored pronouncements by the leadership of one political party in Burundi which called for the withdrawal of that country's Prime Minister and "the overthrow of his Government by all means available". The Council denounced such attempts to threaten, by intimidation, the coalition Government established in line with Burundi's Convention of Government of 10 September 1994.

In a statement read on its behalf by Council President for January, Emilio J. Cardenas (Argentina), the Council condemned the extremist groups that "continued to undermine the national reconciliation process" in that central African nation. The Council called upon all concerned parties, especially the national security forces, to refrain from committing acts of violence and to support the Government institutions set up in line with the Convention.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has urged the authorities in Burundi to maintain order. In a statement issued today, he appealed to all political leaders to refrain from such practices contrary to the spirit of dialogue and compromise which made possible the signing of the Convention of Government. The Secretary-General warned that the international community cannot accept a repetition in Burundi of the tragic events that occurred last year in Rwanda.

* * *

The first regular session for 1995 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) began today at Headquarters. In addition to discussing a broad range of topics focussing on management issues and

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emergency operations, representatives at the session paid tribute to former Executive Director James P. Grant, who died of cancer last Saturday, 28 January.

One of the reports presented at the session documents the nature and magnitude of the UNICEF response to emergencies in 1994. It says millions of people were placed at risk from violence, starvation and disease. More than 18 million people, including 7 million children, were forced to flee their homes and countries, while close to 25 million people were displaced within their own borders. It says that in a world population of 5.5 billion, available data indicates that one in every 130 people on earth has been forced into flight.

The Board is also expected to endorse a recommendation that the 1995 Maurice Pate Award be granted to Professor Ihsan Dogramaci of Turkey, in recognition of his outstanding contribution in the fields of public health and child survival and development. The annual award, named for UNICEF's first Executive Director, is given for exemplary leadership in promoting the well-being of children and women.

* * *

Effective human rights safeguards require political will, as well as objective and efficient functioning of institutions, procedures and mechanisms, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ibrahima Fall told the Human Rights Commision. The Commission's fifty-first session opened in Geneva, Monday. Mr. Fall pointed out that this year's Commission session is doubly significant as it is taking place during the fiftieth year of the United Nations and will hear, for the first time, a report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Jose Ayala Lasso, High Commissioner for Human Rights, said his Office has offered to send a mission to Chechnya to ensure that human rights issues are included in discussions on a global solution. He has also proposed a coordination meeting to be held on Friday, 3 February, at Geneva between all the United Nations organizations and bodies concerned with strengthening the human rights presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The creation of the human rights operation in Rwanda set the example for future actions that could be taken in emergency situations.

* * *

The head of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, Mahmoud Mestiri, is now undertaking consultations with all Afghan faction leaders with a view to finalizing a list of names to constitute a mechanism for a transfer of power in the country, according to a UN spokesman. All the Afghan faction leaders have agreed in principle to the mechanism, and the list of names is expected to be finalized within one week.

Mr. Mestiri recently returned from Kabul and is currently in Islamabad. He will be travelling to Afghanistan again shortly for further consultations.

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The four-month cessation of hostilities agreement signed on New Year's Day between the Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serbs enters its second month today. And despite some well-publicized violations, the agreemnt is reported to have held well through the first month, with hopes being raised that it will continue to be respected. Meanwhile, France has again called for an international peace Conference to address the outstanding issues in all of the former Yugoslavia. According to a UNPROFOR Radio report, Foreign Minister Alain Juppe of France has issued a statement saying that the negotiations have bogged down, and that in his view, only a summit of all the main protagonists can provide the necessary impetus. Mr. Juppe had made a similar call about six months ago.

* * *

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Eritrea have signed two agreements to help finance the eastern lowlands Wadi development project, the Fund's first operation in that country.

The project, worth a total of $20.1 million, aims at rehabilitating an area with a high potential to feed itself, providing employment in its own and neighbouring regions and contributing to national food security. The Sheeb and Wadi Labka area has suffered a dramatic fall in production as infrastructure deteriorated over three decades of war. Rehabilitation of the spate-irrigated agricultural systems of the eastern lowlands under this project represents an important contribution to poverty alleviation and improving food self-sufficiency in that area.

Improved on-farm irrigation, water control and downstream farmer-constructed distribution systems, better agricultural services and input supplies, livestock development, veterinary services, credit for acquisition of oxen and construction of rural roads are expected to help over 7,500 families in the eastern lowlands increase their production and incomes. Women, in particular, will benefit from the project's improved grain and oil-seed processing. More regular and higher crop production will increase on-farm labour and wage earning opportunities for some 4,000 highland families. In addition, nomadic livestock herders travelling through the area will also have access to the improved services while over 1,600 households in non-project villages will benefit from a new road.

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Economic and Social Council's new president says international community's inability to achieve world peace is result of its failure to address underlying socio-economic problems which cause strife.

+ Special Representative in Somalia says safety of international staff with UNOSOM must come first; United Nations civilian personnel to leave Somalia earlier than scheduled because of looting and fighting.

+ Co-chairmen of International Conference on former Yugoslavia meet in Zagreb with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and Special Representative Yasushi Akashi.

+ United Nations launches $213 million interagency appeal for Angola to cover humnanitarian activities for 1995.

+ Appeal also lauched for displaced persons from Chechnya; United Nations asks for nearly $24 million.

+ Member States owe United Nations $3.6 billion as of January 31.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs to meet head of Tajik opposition delegation Friday.

+ United Nations delegation to visit Myanmar for new round of talks.

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The root cause behind the international community's inability to realize international peace was its failure to effectively address the socio-economic factors that lead to strife, the new President of the Economic and Social Council, Ahmad Kamal (Pakistan) said yesterday. The world still continued in a state of uncertainty, despite the expectations engendered by the end of the cold war. Progress remained sporadic and woefully uneven.

Addressing the Council's first organizational meeting for 1995, Mr. Ahmad said the importance of tackling those factors had been apparent to the members

of the United Nations since its inception. However, they had been unable to generate the necessary political will to eliminate inequities in the global environment. Equally important, the international community had not devised mechanisms that would effectively translate the existing global consensus on broad policies into viable programmes for alleviating socio-economic stress.

During the United Nations fiftieth anniversary year, he said the Council should take measures to help it achieve one of its most difficult and cherished objectives, that of improving economic and social conditions which threatened to destroy post cold war hopes for peace.

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The safety of international staff of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) must be placed first, the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Somalia, Mr. Victor Gbeho said yesterday. Ambasssador Gbeho said in the last few days there had been fighting for control of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) building recently vacated in south Mogadishu and the systematic looting of the former UNOSOM headquarters, the United States Embassy University and the Pakistani Brigade headquarters compounds which were finally vacated yesterday.

It was clear that the pledges by Somali leaders to keep those areas free of fighting and looting had not been honoured, Ambassador Gbeho said. Therefore the bulk of UNOSOM's international civilian staff will have to leave Somalia slightly earlier than originally scheduled. UNOSOM's military force is also in the process of withdrawal and will continue to protect the air and sea ports in Mogadishu until all international staff and equipment belonging to the United Nations had been despatched as planned, he said.

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The co-chairmen of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia Lord David Owen and Mr. Thorvald Stoltenberg were in Zagreb today for meetings with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and with Special Representative Yasushi Akashi. They discussed the "Z-4" proposal on a political settlement for the Croatian conflict. President Tudjman has indicated the plan as proposed is not acceptable to Croatia. However, he has made it clear Croatia is willing to enter into serious discussions and negoatiations based on the plan. The Croatian Serb leaders in Knin have refused even to accept the plan, demanding first a written guarantee from the Security Council that UNPROFOR will remain in Croatia. The international mediators said they regretted very much the refusal of the Croatian Serbs to even look at the proposals.

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The United Nations has launched a consolidated interagency appeal for $212.8 million for Angola to cover humanitarian activities for 1995. More than 3 million Angolans are in need of food aid or other emergency

(more)

assistance. The appeal covers relief and resettlement for the country's estimated 1.1 million internally displaced persons and for 100,000 refugees expected to be repatriated this year.

The humanitarian programme also includes support for the demobilization and reintegration of 90,000 former combatants, and a mine action programme to deal with the estimated 10,000,000 land-mines in the country. There are approximately 70,000 amputees as a result of mine incidents in Angola. The humanitarian agencies and the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) will collaborate in land-mine related activities.

The United Nations agencies whose activities are covered by the appeal include: the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); the International Labour Organization (ILO); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the World Health Organization (WHO); the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

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The United Nations has also lauched a "flash appeal" for displaced persons from Chechnya. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs is seeking $23.6 million to cover work between January and April by four United Nations agencies: the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO), and by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs in a coordinating capacity.

More than 160,000 people who have fled the fighting in Chechnya and are now living in the nearby areas of Daghestan, Ingushetia and North Ossetia, are targeted by the "flash appeal" launched today. The aid will also ease the burden of the local families who are housing 95 per cent of those internally displaced persons and as a result are also suffering severe hardship.

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The United Nations was owed a total of $3.6 billion as of 31 January. Of that amount, $1.4 billion was for unpaid assessments to the regular budget and $2.2 billion was for peacekeeping assessments, according to a United Nations spokesman. At the end of December, the unpaid contributions totaled approximately $1.8 billion. Only 75 of 185 Member States had paid their budget assessments in full and some 39 had made no payment at all to the regular budget during the last year. As of 31 January 1995, only 19 Member States had paid their regular budget assessments in full.

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Marrack Goulding, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, will meet with Akbar Turajonzodah, Head of the Tajik opposition delegation at the inter-Tajik talks and First Deputy Chairman of the Islamic Revival Movement of Tajikistan tomorrow. Also at the meeting will be Mohammadsharif Himmatzodah,

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Deputy Head of the Tajik opposition delegation. The two men are currently on a private visit to the United States. Discussions will focus on issues related to the inter-Tajik political dialogue, particularly the next round of United Nations-sponsored negotiations between the Tajik Government and the opposition. The aim is to facilitate the process of national reconciliation in Tajikistan.

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Following the dialogue initiated last October, between Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and the Government of Myanmar, a new round of talks will be held in Yangon from 6 to 8 February, a United Nations spokesman said today. Alvaro de Soto, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, will lead the United Nations delegation at the talks. The delegation will arrive in Myanmar over the weekend.

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